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T H E
STANDARD of the LORD of HOSTS
E X A L T E D;
T H E
BANNER of the PRINCE of PEACE
D I S P L A Y E D.

Being a Message unto the King, the Ministers of State and the Members of both Houses of Parliament, to take away the heavy burthen of Tithes, and to set at liberty the African Slaves.

By *JOHN BOUSELL*, u

Of the City of Norwich, a Disciple of Jesus Christ, and a Dissenter from the People called Quakers.

“ Lift up ye a banner upon the high mountains, exalt the voice unto them; shake the hand that they may go into the gates of the nobles.”

Isaiah, xiii. c. ii. v.

All ye inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth, see ye when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains, and when he bloweth a trumpet hear ye.

Isaiah, xviii. c. iii. v.

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STANDARD of the LORD of HOSTS

THE END

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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...the world's population...

P R E F A C E.

I Think it right to inform the reader that very unexpectedly and unfought for an apprehension of duty fixed upon my mind to write the following Messages. I trust they will appear to the unprejudiced reader consistent with scripture and reason. Doubtless there wants a general reformation among mankind in all stations of life, this every attentive observer must acknowledge.—My present business is to call upon the principal rulers solidly to consider the ground, the foundation of the Ministers of the Established Church, whether it is of God or of man. The command of the holy Emanuel was to his Ministers that as they had freely received freely they were to give; these ministers went forth by divine appointment, their trust was in God, and he richly provided for them; and, so far from compelling any to maintain them, they were commanded to leave those that would not receive and hear, and to shake the dust off their feet against them.

Time will not permit me to examine the ground of the law that commanded tithes under the Levitical Dispensation, but this I will assert, it has no foundation, no authority, either from the practice or commands of Christ and his Apostles, consequently tithes * originate in another ground, in the Church of Rome; by the

* This nation was once free from all tithes and other impositions of that sort, till antichristian priestcraft (more subtle than that of the heathen) so far seduced the minds of weak and ignorant men, prone to superstition and idolatry, that they often gave away to their priests the whole or the greater part of their substance (at least on their dying beds) for pretended chimerical services; as praying the departed souls of themselves or friends out of a supposed purgatory, with certain masses; which so far prevailed in this nation, that the legislature, fearing the whole lands would in time fall into the hands of the clergy, made a law, called the statute of Mortmain, as a means to prevent it, which in some degree answered the end and clogged their proceedings; but I do not remember to have seen any law by the legislature of this kingdom for imposing of tithes, or so much as for the recovering of them or any thing to the priests, under the notion of dues, until the reign of King Henry VIII. when men's eyes began to be so far opened that many refused to pay them, as appears by the preamble of the statutes made for that end in his reign, which establish the customs on foot in favour of the priests for forty years before (no doubt originally of their own beginning and imposing); these statutes, being defective, were corroborated by the second statute of Edward VI. still in force. By all which it appears that these men never came fairly and equitably to

the craft and subtlety of the covetous priests this burthen was laid upon the people, and a grievous burthen it has proved ; also great have been the sufferings of many precious servants of God for their testimony, which he gave them to bear against an hireling ministry. For the truth of this I refer the reader to the perusal of the sufferings of the people called Quakers:—It may with sorrow be acknowledged that many who go under that name in the present age have cowardly turned their backs in the day of battle, baulked that testimony which their noble ancestors bore in the heat of the day of violent persecution for the cause of truth. By the favourable interposition of the Almighty the churches have been favoured by those that sit at the helm of government, yet the root of persecution (tithes*) remains. The time is come for the axe to be laid to the root of every evil tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, which must be cut down ; the good husbandman is taking a view of his plantation, his command is to his servants—plough up the fallow ground, sow no longer among thorns, that the earth may be prepared to receive the heavenly seed, that the noble plants of the Lord's right-hand planting may take deep root, and bear fruit to the praise of him who is worthy for evermore.

NORWICH, 3 mo. 2, 1790.

J. B.

the large share they demand and receive out of the property of others, especially of those who cannot receive them as gospel ministers, since the author of religion himself hath commanded his ministers—that as freely they have received they shall freely give.—The laws of the land therefore, upon the whole, though they bind the property by a sort of national violence, yet they can never bind the conscience: For which, and the Lord of conscience, we suffer with patience, as witnesses on earth for him that reigneth in Heaven, until in the course of his providence, he appears for our relief, who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and doth what he will in and with the kingdoms of men.

THOMAS STORY.

* If such a happy change should take place, and those in authority in this or some future period should conclude it right to apply the revenues of the clergy for the maintenance of the poor or use of the state, doubtless they will also see it necessary to make suitable provision for the present teachers of the established church and their families, until they can provide for themselves by some honourable and honest employment.

MESSAGE unto the KING.

GIVE audience, O King, and receive the message which the Lord my good master has given me in commission to communicate unto thee. The Lord has given thee an earthly kingdom, made thee ruler over a great people, and power to chuse thy own servants, ministers and ambassadors, and to appoint them their office, and to whatever service is consistent with thy own will and pleasure. My master, the King of Kings, has reserved unto himself this power of election and appointment of his servants, ministers and ambassadors, consistent with his holy will and wisdom and the good order and government of his heavenly kingdom.

Would this appear unto thee a light matter, O King, for any man in thy kingdom to chuse servants, ministers and ambassadors for thee, put them into office and appoint them unto service in thy name without thy authority or approbation? Would this appear a light matter unto thee, O King, for those that assumed the title of thy servants, ministers and ambassadors without thy commission to take upon them in thy name to propose terms of peace and reconciliation unto thy enemies or unto thy subjects that have revolted and rebelled against the laws of thy kingdom and order of thy government? Would this appear unto thee a light matter, O King, for these impostors to force themselves into thy presence and take a solemn oath that thou, by thy power, will and wisdom hast put them into office and appointed them unto this service, and take upon them to speak in thy name; yet from thy own certain knowledge these men were strangers unto thee, that they were impostors and deceivers, and that they sought not thy honour and the welfare of thy kingdom, but their own honour, ease and interest, and by feigned words and specious appearances deceive the simple, and under specious pretences take upon themselves the office of leaders unto thy children and subjects? Would this appear a light matter unto thee, O King, to behold these deceivers, these impostors, these blind leaders, to lead thousands of thy subjects into the pit of delusion and destruction? And would it appear unto thee a light matter, O King, for any man or set of men in
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thy dominions to make laws, and by the authority of these laws these deceivers and impostors, as before described, compel thy children to maintain them, as thy ministers and ambassadors, in a state of pomp and idleness?—What what would'st thou, O King, do in this matter with such men, who under feigned and false pretences call themselves, and solemnly swear† they are called and sent by thee, to speak in thy name, although thou hast not spoken unto or owned them, knowing they are the greatest enemies to thyself, children, people and government.

Solidly attend, O King, unto the message my great Lord and good master has given me in commission to communicate unto thee, and render that honour which is due unto him, and no longer chuse servants, ministers and ambassadors for the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords; leave this unto his choice, election, will and wisdom; it is by the servants and ministers of his own choice and appointment he will exalt the honour and glory of his kingdom, by those that he calls and qualifies, and sends forth under the influence of his heavenly wisdom and power; the ministers and ambassadors of the Lord of Hosts are noblemen clothed with holy, pure vestments of innocence and integrity; truth is as a star upon their breasts, shining with lustre and great brightness, they appear not in earthly pomp, greatness and grandeur, but in heavenly simplicity, glory and splendor; for the glory of the Holy One of Israel rests upon them, causing them to shine as stars in the firmament. This is the state and character of the ministers and ambassadors of the King of Kings; and as thy ministers and ambassadors, O King, are not to speak their own but thy words, thou commandest them in like manner; the ministers and ambassadors of the Lord of Lords are not to speak their own but the words he putteth into their mouths, and as thou, O King, takest that which is done to thy ambassadors as done to thyself, in like manner my master, the King of Kings, the Supreme Governor of the Universe, takes that as done unto himself which is done to his ambassadors; those that touch them touch the apple of his eye.

I have a commission to declare in my master's name, that all those called ministers and ambassadors of the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, under every name, who stand not in his counsel, who are not called or qualified and sent forth under the immediate influence of his good spirit, all those that enter not into the church by Christ, the wisdom and power of God, are (spiritually) thieves

† The Author alludes to the practice of the Clergy, when they are confirmed by the Bishop.

thieves and robbers ; those are the false prophets which the Son of God foretold should come in his name and deceive many, many are the idle shepherds that feed themselves, but feed not with heavenly food the flock of God. The controversy of my Lord and master is with these men, made ministers, these hireling teachers, who are in the same spirit as those of whom the prophet writes—
 “ The word of the Lord came unto me saying, son of man prophecy against the prophets of Israel that prophecy out of their own hearts ; hear ye the word of the Lord, thus saith the Lord God, woe unto the false prophets that follow their own (not the Lord's) spirit, and have seen nothing.” These hireling teachers of the Israelitish established church were likened unto foxes in the desert, and who had not gone up into the gaps, neither mended the hedges, for the house of Israel to stand in the day of battle, in the day of the Lord ; they have seen vanity and lying divinations, saying, the Lord saith, yet he declares he hath not sent them, neither spoken unto them. The Lord said, my hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, that divine lies, they seduced the people, saying peace, when there was no peace ; it is by the heavenly light that shineth from the throne of the glory of the Lord of Hosts that discovered the states of those that preach for hire and divine for money, that seek their gain from their quarter, that prepare war against those that put not into their mouths, these appear in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves ; the tree is to be known by its fruits. My soul is clothed with holy zeal for the honor and glory of the King of Kings, and in his name I declare these are impostors, and not his servants, ministers and ambassadors, they are the greatest enemies to his heavenly kingdom and have dethroned the Prince of Peace and exalted themselves, taking upon them the government of the church, called the church of God. In the reign of King Charles the First, the Lord, my master, raised up by his almighty power a people,* gave them a commission to declare war in his name against spiritual wickedness in high places, against an Antichristian hireling ministry, and against the Antichristian yoke of tythes ; these were as an army with banners terrible unto the workers of iniquity ; the Lord of hosts was with these his servants, his ministers and ambassadors, supported them by his holy spirit under all their trials, and by his invisible arm divided the waters of great tribulation, made a way for them where there appeared no way ; he owned them for his people, a chosen generation, a spiritual family, a royal priesthood, qualified by the influence of the spirit of God to offer upon his altar spiritual sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto him ; these noble valiants for the cause

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of

* The people called Quakers.

of truth bore in the name of their Lord and master a testimony against all wars and fightings, being contrary to his divine will, contrary to his creating power, contrary unto the heavenly principle of love, contrary unto and entirely repugnant unto the whole of the heavenly doctrine of the holy Emanuel, which was love. This was a day of glorious manifestation of light and of love to the children of men, and the glory of the Lord covered the solemn assemblies of these his children, the tabernacle of God was with them, he dwelt among them, was their God, light and leader, and as a wall of fire round about them; no weapon formed against this Israel of God prospered; these servants of the Lord of Lords were instrumental in his hands of great reformation; those that embraced, that received the Son of God (the spirit of God, the heavenly messenger, the holy Emanuel) in his spiritual appearance, those that in humility submitted and abode under the government of the Prince of Peace, were by his eternal spirit leavened into and made partakers of the divine nature. Altho' these fathers are fallen asleep, and but few left to fill up their stations, I have in commission to inform thee, O King, the same arm of divine power is at work to raise up other witnesses; my master, the King of Kings, will raise up a mighty army against Babylon, her destruction draweth near, her merchants (the false prophets, the ministers of Antichrist, under every name) shall mourn because the people will buy of their treasure no more; the Lord of Lords will arise in his holy habitation, all flesh shall be silent (the wisdom, power and glory of man), his own wisdom, power and glory shall reign for ever and ever.

In the simplicity of my heart I have delivered this message; I must for the present withdraw, and leave thee, O King, to the protection of the King of Kings: may his almighty arm be made bare for thy deliverance from out of the hand of all thy enemies; may the guardian Angel of the Lord encamp about thee, O King, and thy royal consort; may the blessings of the everlasting hills rest upon you and upon your numerous offspring, and may your hands be strengthened by the hand of the mighty God of Jacob to execute his holy will, suppressing vice and immorality and in demolishing the strong holds of Satan, in pulling down of spiritual wickedness in the high places, and in establishing of righteousness in the earth, for it is righteousness alone that exalts a nation. Farewell.

JOHN BOUSELL.

A M E S S A G E
UNTO THE
MINISTERS OF STATE
AND TO THE
M E M B E R S
O F
BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

GIVE audience you that are in authority, and receive the message my master has given me in commission to communicate unto you. Loose the bonds of wickedness, break every yoke, deliver the oppressed out of the hands of the spoiler; remove the heavy burthen of tithes, make null and void all those ecclesiastical statutes and decrees, laws and impositions, made and laid upon the people in the night of popery, in the dark night of apostacy, wherein the hearts of the children of men were turned from God; give no longer power unto the merchants of Babylon, the hireling ministers of Antichrist, over the fruits of the labour of the industrious husbandman; no longer compel by law the inhabitants of this land to maintain a class of men, as ministers of the Lord of Hosts, when he hath not sent them, whom he doth not own, unto whom he hath not given commission or authority to speak in his name. From this ground many evils have arisen, both in the temporal and spiritual state of the people. My good Lord and master has been very bountiful unto you, and given you power to chuse for yourselves servants according to your own minds. Would you not conclude it a hardship to be deprived of this privilege freely given unto you by the King of Kings? Prize his mercy and blessings, and humble yourselves before him, ye potsherds of the earth, lest he break you to pieces.

My great Lord and good master is as a wayfaring man, returning home after a long journey, calling upon his servants to give an account of their conduct in the time of his absence. You who stand in the first rank, you who stand as stewards over the household in his name, I call upon you to give an account of your stewardship.

ardship. Have you been faithful to the trust reposed in you? What is the state of the family of the servants? How do the children of the little ones? In what state are the numerous flocks of sheep and of lambs? Have you been faithful unto your lord in the choice and appointment of those servants whose business it is to feed and instruct the tender babes?—Once more I call upon you, lest you should be dull of hearing. What is the state of the family and flock of God over whom you have taken the government and direction? Have you been faithful unto him in the choice of faithful shepherds over the flocks of sheep and of the lambs of his heavenly fold? You that are men of understanding are careful in choosing men of integrity and of clean hands to instruct your children and to instil into their tender minds principles of virtue, that they may be qualified to fill up their stations in life with reputation. That which is natural corresponds to that which is spiritual. What is the cause of the miserable state and condition of (those called) the children of the Lord, that there is no soundness in them, full of wounds and putrifying sores? What is the cause of their numbness, their stupidity, their blindness and captivity, bound in chains in a strange land? I have beheld the afflicted, distressed state of my children, saith the Lord of Hosts; I have heard their bitter mournings, their cry is come up before me, and I am come down to deliver them, and will deliver them out of the hands of their oppressors, out of the hands of their cruel, hard-hearted task masters, that you have placed over them; I have raised up my servant and sent him this day to expostulate with you, who have taken upon you this care and protection of my family, saith the Lord. You men of understanding, judge, I pray you, between me and my stewards; behold the afflicted, mournful state of my tender babes, and solidly consider the cause from whence their affliction arises. Is it their ignorant teachers that have caused them to err, is it their blind leaders that have seduced and led them in the paths of error and strong delusion? I appeal unto you that are judges of the people in this land; judge ye, I pray you, between me and my stewards (those that are in authority) and those whom they have appointed to feed and instruct my tender offspring; judge ye them by their fruits, by their conduct; judge ye their conduct by the state of the flocks of my heavenly fold. I will state my case and plead my cause. These shepherds have fed themselves. Should not the shepherd have fed the flock? They eat the fat, and cloath themselves with the wool, but feed not the flock; the diseased have they not strengthened, neither healed that which was sick, nor bound up that which was broken, neither brought back that which was

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was driven away, neither have they sought out that which was lost, but with force and cruelty have they ruled over them and they are scattered and become a prey to every beast of the field; my sheep wander through all the barren mountains and upon every desolate hill, yea my flock are scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none of these idle shepherds search or seek after them. Shall not the the judge of all the earth do right, and render unto every man according unto his his works? Let a solid consideration take place in your minds, and admit of ray of heavenly light to shine into your understandings, that you may know and see the very state and condition of those you have chosen and appointed as ministers unto and as shepherds over the flock. Would you chuse blind and ignorant, hard-hearted and merciless men to feed and instruct your own children? Would you chuse careless hard-hearted and indolent men for shepherds over your flocks? Nay, nay, would you not take your little ones and your sheep and lambs out of the hands of those who appear in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves? Hear ye the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I am against the shepherds that you have chosen and appointed over my flocks, and I will require my flocks at their hands, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more, for I will deliver my flock from their mouth,* and I will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land, and they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.

I may honestly acknowledge that I have been backward in paying you rulers this visit; I could see no footsteps of my master's servants that led towards your dwelling places; this was very discouraging; and I let in reasoning: I knew not what reception I should meet with or entertainment I should receive at your hands; I was disobedient to the heavenly vision; my great Lord and good master hid his face from me for a season, I walked in darkness and saw no light; this caused me to mourn before him whose penetrating eye beholds the secret recess of every heart; my soul was by his power made to become as passive clay in the hands of the heavenly potter, who formed me according to his own good pleasure and brought me into a state of humble resignation unto his holy will, whatever he in his wisdom might permit me to suffer for the testimony he gave me to bear among you for the cause of truth and exaltation of his great and adorable name: life, liberty

* EZEKIEL 34 C. 10 V.—Read the whole chapter and see the state of the Teachers of the Established Church.

berty and property are at his disposal, not mine; but the divine will be done. It is from a beam of light that flows from the throne of glory that the eye of my understanding has been opened to behold the inward state of the false prophets, the ministers of Antichrist, the merchants of Babylon, under the various names, and the great, yea the very great and many evils the children of men have brought upon themselves, in forsaking the living God, the fountain of light and of wisdom, the fountain of living waters, and hewn to themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that will hold no water, rejecting the Lord and chusing man to be their law-giver, leader and teacher. The evils that are in the world, both in church and state originates in mankind's rejecting the ways of the Lord, that are equal, and chusing their own ways, that are unequal. Hear O Heavens, and give ear O Earth, the Lord hath spoken: I have nourished and brought up children and they have rebelled; ah, sinful nation! a people laden with iniquity! a seed of evil doers! children that are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger; they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more; the whole head is sick and the whole heart is faint.* This is written against you who are in authority, and against your priests and against the people; the land is full of idols; they worship the works of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made. Examine the ground, ye wise men, search out the cause, ye men of understanding, of the great abomination, of the great wickedness, of the great darkness that covers the land. The Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, he hath closed your eyes, ye rulers, and the false prophets and the seers he hath covered with a cloud, in his anger. Behold, saith the Lord, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of the earthly wise man shall perish, and the understanding of the prudent man shall be hid; woe to them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord and whose works are in the darkness, and that say—who seeth us?† The penetrating eye of the Almighty seeth the secrets of the hearts of the sons of men, unto whom his word is—proclaim woe unto the rebellious children that take counsel and not of me, that cover themselves and not with my spirit, that they may add sin to sin. Give audience you that are in authority and understand the ground of the controversy of my master, the King of Kings, with you: You have not taken counsel

* Isaiah, C. 2. V.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5.—† Jeremiah, 29 C.—10 to 15, V.

counsel of him in the choice and appointment of those unto whom you have given the title of his ministers, neither have these covered themselves with his spirit. The Lord standeth up to plead, and to judge the people, the Lord will enter into judgement with the ancients of the people and the princes thereof, for ye have eaten up the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses. What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces and grind the faces of the poor, saith the Lord God of Hosts.—The trumpet soundeth long—awake, awake, ye rulers, prepare to meet the Lord in the way of his judgements, which are very near, and read the scriptures, and there you will find when the inhabitants of the various nations had filled up the measure of their iniquity the King of Kings visited them with a rod in his anger. National sins awaken and draw down temporal punishments; this will those men of understanding among you acknowledge, this is evidently demonstrated; in like manner spiritual wickedness awaketh and draweth down the spiritual plagues which rest upon the heads of those spiritual idolaters who are departed in heart from the living God, who have given up themselves to work wickedness in his holy sight.

The Lord hath fulfilled the vision which he showed unto his servant John should come to pass. “I heard a great voice out of the temple, saying to the seven Angels, go your ways and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went and poured out his vial upon the earth, and there fell a grievous sore upon the men who had the mark of the beasts in their foreheads, and upon them which worshipped his image.”

It is very evident that spiritual idolatry was the ground, the cause, that drew down the wrath of God upon the inhabitants, those men which had received the mark of the beast (the Devil) and that worshipped his image, the proud spirit of unenlightened men, that hath exalted itself in the temple (in the church); this spirit is Antichrist, that covers himself under the name, calling himself the minister of Christ, exalting himself in his own wisdom above Christ, the wisdom and power of God.—And the second Angel poured out his vial upon the sea, and it became as the blood of a dead man, and every living soul died in the sea. And the third Angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of water, and they became blood.—Every beam of heavenly light, every truth revealed, is a vial of wrath poured out upon Babylon. The Lord hath revealed unto his servants. The sea, the rivers, the fountains of water of the kingdom of Babylon, are as the blood of a dead man. All the forms and ceremonies, and all that which is called worship, which man hath ordained in his own will and

wisdom, and all the doctrines that are preached in the will, in the wisdom and in the spirit of unconverted, unenlightened man, and not in the will and wisdom and under the immediate influence of the power and spirit of God, is spiritual death to all those that drink thereof; this is the portion of all those that reject the Lord, that refuse to drink of the stream of that pure river that proceeds from the throne of his glory, the inexhaustible fountain of wisdom, light and love.—And the fourth Angel poured out his vial upon the sun, and power was given unto him to search men with fire.—As the light of the sun of the natural world darkens all other lights, in like manner the divine light of the heavenly sun darkens, that is, discovereth the darkness of Antichrist's kingdom, discovereth the darkness of the spirits of the false prophets, the ministers of Antichrist, and the darkness of the spirits of the whole kingdom of Babylon. The light of divine wisdom discovereth the darkness of human wisdom in those mysteries that belong to the kingdom of God.—The following vision is this day fulfilled:—And the fifth Angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast, and his kingdom was full of darkness.—It is by a ray of heavenly light that the eye of the understandings of the Lord's ministers is enlightened to see the great darkness that fills the kingdom of the beast. This vial of the wrath of God is poured upon the seat of the beast, upon those earthly powers that have been the support, the foundation of the church of Antichrist, under the figure of a woman sitting upon a scarlet-coloured beast. The time is come, divine light is streaming forth to enlighten the understanding of the chief magistrates, the rulers; whereby they behold the evil tendency, the evil consequence of those laws by which the hireling ministers of Antichrist have been supported, which have proved the foundation of great woe and misery to many nations, both in church and state.—Bring it home ye rulers, and lay it to heart, consider the present miserable state of the political body, from the sole of the foot even to the crown of the head, there is no soundness in it; consider the miserable state of the church, the body spiritual, it is full of wounds and bruises and putrifying sores; for the hurt of the daughter of my people I am black, astonishment hath taken hold upon me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

Examine the ground, ye wise men, search out the cause, ye men of understanding, from whence the great wickedness of the professors of Christianity arise as a dark cloud that hinders the heavenly influence of the beams of the Son of Righteousness to shine, to enlighten, and to heal our malady. It is your sins that have made a separation between you and your God, and your iniquities

ties that hide good things from you. Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee, O England! and they have not discovered to thee thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity, but have seen for thee false burthens, and causes of banishment from the presence of God and his holy angels. O ye rulers, search the ancient records (the scriptures) wherein you may see as in a glass the state and condition of the false prophets, the ministers of the established church, against whom the Lord raised up by his mighty power servants, and gave them commission to bear testimony in his name, saying, the prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the Lord, wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways, in the darkness they shall be deceived and fall therein, for I will bring evil upon them, even in the year of visitation, saith the Lord, the strangers also, the evil doers, that know and do not return from their wickedness, they all of them are unto me as Sodom and Gomorrah.*

Bring this matter home ye rulers, put you on sack-cloth and mourn and weep bitterly, for the great wickedness, the great abominations that are committed by the inhabitants of this land; for because of swearing the land mourneth; how do horrible devils in human form walk in our streets, belching forth oaths and blaspheming the most sacred name of the Lord God of Hosts.

This was the ground of many evils in that day, the false prophets that stood not in the council of the Lord to turn the people from the evil of their ways, these prophets prophecy lies, yea they are prophets of the deceit of their own hearts. I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that steal my words, every one from their neighbour. The anger of the Holy One of Israel was kindled against the inhabitants of Jerusalem, by reason of the deceit and wickedness of their prophets, and the people that received and supported them; he declared by his servant,—behold, I, even I, will utterly forsake you and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and cast you out of my presence, and I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame which shall not be forgotten. The command of the Lord is gone forth, set ye up the standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against Babylon, call together the kingdoms, appoint a Captain against her. My master, the King of Kings, is fulfilling his word this day against (spiritual) Babylon, he is raising up the spirit of the prophets, reviving their living tes-

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timony

* Jeremiah C. 23.—Read the Chapter.

timony against the workers of iniquity ; the land shall tremble, for every purpose of the Lord shall be performed to make the land of Babylon a desert without inhabitants. O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thy end is come and the measure of thy covetousness.

The Lord hath opened his armory and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation, for this is the work of the Lord God of Hosts in the land of the Chaldeans. Behold a people shall come from the north, and a great nation; many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.—My master, the King of Kings, hath revealed unto his servants his holy purpose concerning the destruction of Babylon, the false church, whose foundation lies in hypocrisy, error, spiritual darkness and delusion. A sword is upon the Chaldeans saith the Lord (upon the spiritual forcerers by whom all nations have been deceived), and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, upon her princes and upon her wise men; be awakened, ye rulers, a sound of battle is in the land and of great destruction; at the noise of taking Babylon the earth is moved and the cry is heard among the nations; prepare against her the nations, with the Kings of the Medes, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitants.*—This is the heavenly call, flee out of the midst of Babylon and deliver every man his soul; be not cut off in her iniquity, for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance, he will render unto her a recompence; therefore behold the day is come that I will do judgement upon the graven images of Babylon, and her whole land shall be confounded and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her; then the Heaven and the Earth and all that is therein shall sing for Babylon, for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the Lord, though Babylon should mount up to Heaven (in her imagination), and though she should fortify (by the arm of flesh) the height of her strength, yet from me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the Lord. Heaven and Earth may pass away, but every word of my master, the Lord of Lords, shall be fulfilled. Various are the dispensations of divine wisdom; my soul is dipt into a deep sense of the great darkness that hath long covered the understandings of the children of men, because of their rebellion against the King of Heaven, and his divine laws and holy commandments; from this ground innumerable evils have arisen; this is the effect; for man's disobedience to the holy commandment the ground was cursed, in sorrow man was
to

* Jeremiah 51 Chap.—Read the Chapter and understand temporal Babylon was as a type of spiritual Babylon, and the Lord will fulfil his word concerning her.

to eat thereof; here lies the ground of affliction, woe and misery, man rebelling and separating himself from God, plunging himself into the abyſs, into the centre of the kingdom of darkneſs. Pride, diſobedience and rebellion againſt the revealed will of the Moſt High God was the door whereby ſpiritual death and darkneſs entered into the world; humility, ſubmiſſion, reſignation and obedience unto the manifeſtations of the divine will to man is the door by which heavenly life entered into the immortal ſoul, and is the divine light whereby the eye of the underſtanding is enlightened. As man abides in this light that proceeds from God, the fountain of light, he becomes a child of God, a ſon of the morning light, is as a ſtar in the firmament, and as he abideth and moveth in the heavenly orb of righteouſneſs, ſhining in the glory of his Heavenly Father, he is as a light in a dark world, as a city ſet upon a hill that cannot be hid: Theſe are the ſalt of the earth by which it is preſerved from total corruption.

I do not addreſs you that are in authority in the language of a ſervant of an earthly prince, but in the language and after the manner of the ſervants, miniſters and embaſſadors of the King of Kings unto the rulers among the people in former ages. Thus ſaith the Lord God, go down to the King of Judah and ſpeak to him, and ſay—thus ſaith the Lord, hear O King of Judah that ſitteth upon the throne of David, thou and thy ſervants and thy people that enter in by theſe gates, thus ſaith the Lord, execute ye judgement and righteouſneſs and deliver the ſpoiled out of the hands of the oppreſſor, and do no wrong, or violence to the ſtranger, the fatherleſs, nor the widow, neither ſhed innocent blood in this place; but if ye will not hear theſe words, I ſwear by myſelf, ſaith the Lord, that this houſe ſhall become a deſolation.* It is for this purpoſe my great Lord and good maſter hath put it in my heart to pay the Miniſters of State and the Members of both Houſes of Parliament this public and religious viſit, to declare, to make known unto you what it is he requires at your hands. Execute ye judgement and righteouſneſs conſiſtent with the righteous laws of God, and deliver the ſpoiled out of the hand of the oppreſſor.—Ere I take my leave, I once more call upon you, in the name of the Lord of Lords:—Make null and void all eccleſiaſtical laws and decrees, ſtatutes and impoſitions made and laid upon the people in the dark night of popery, in the dark night of apoſtacy. This was and is the voice of him that ſpeaks from Heaven:—Woe unto them that decree (and that execute) unrighteous decrees, and that write grievouſneſs,

* Jeremiah 22 Chap.—Read the Chapter and lay it to heart.

ousness, which they have prescribed to turn aside the needy from judgement, and take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless. What will ye do in the day of visitation and in the desolation which will come from far? To whom will ye cry for help, and where will ye leave your glory? * Sanctify the Lord of Hosts himself and let him be your fear and your dread; hear and obey his word that is sent amongst you this day; take away, remove the heavy burthen of tithes, make null and void all those unjust laws that give power unto the merchants of Babylon, the hireling ministers of Antichrist, over the property of others; from this ground innumerable evils have arisen, this has been the foundation of great persecution against many precious servants of the Most High God, for their faithful testimony against these hireling teachers, who, thro' covetousness, with feigned words, make merchandise of the sacred writings and exercise lordship over the heritage of God; it is from this ground great spiritual darkness hath arisen, whereby the light of the heavenly sun hath been darkened and its holy power and influence interrupted.

The Lord of Lords revealed unto his servant this present dispensation. And the fifth Angel sounded (a minister of Christ publishing gospel truths, in which is light), and John saw a star fall from Heaven unto the Earth (a figure of the inward state of the false prophets, the ministers of Antichrist, under every name) and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit (the evil spirit that possesses these spiritual forceries hath power to penetrate to the centre of its own kingdom, to form and transform itself into any appearance, whereby it may bewitch, seduce and deceive those whose habitation is in the kingdom of darkness), and he opened the bottomless pit and there arose a smoke out of the pit, and there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth. The locusts which the Lord brought upon the land of Egypt, as a punishment for its cruel hard-hearted inhabitants was a type of these spiritual locusts. And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt, very grievous were they, for they covered the whole earth, so that the land was darkened and they did eat every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left, and there remained not any green thing on the trees or in the fields, nor any herb throughout the land of Egypt.†

Admit a ray of heavenly light to shine into your hearts, whereby your understandings may be enlightened, O ye rulers among the

* Isaiah i C.—1, 2 and 3 V.—† Exodus, 10 C.—14 and 15 V.

the people in this highly favoured land ; in this divine light ye will clearly discover the inward state of those teachers that ye have taken unto yourselves, having itching ears, ever learning, yet by them never able to attain unto the knowledge of the truth : as the swarms of locusts brought darkness over the land of Egypt, in like manner these spiritual locusts have brought spiritual darkness over this land ; unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power, and their power was to hurt men five months, a limited time.

The trumpet sounded, behold a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind ; it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked, the anger of the Lord shall not return until he has executed, and till he has performed, the thoughts of his heart in the latter days. Ye shall consider perfectly (this is the word of the Lord concerning those you have chosen for ministers) I have not sent these prophets, yet they run ; I have not spoken unto them, yet they prophecy ; but if they had stood in my council, and caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

Solidly consider, ye rulers, and pray unto the Most High to send forth light and truth to enlighten your understandings, whereby you may clearly understand and discover the ground and the evil consequence of a corrupt ministry. Read the laws and statutes of the King of Glory (the scriptures) where you will find recorded many living testimonies against the false prophets, whom the ministers and ambassadors of the King of Kings have described, under various characters, as idle shepherds, who fleece, but feed not the flock with heavenly food ; as wolves, in sheep's clothing, whose nature is to worry the lambs of the heavenly fold ; as locusts, that eat up every green herb, and that bring darkness upon the face of the earth ; as serpents, that sting with their tails ; as sorcerers, that bewitch, seduce and deceive the people ; as spiritual thieves and robbers, that enter not into the church by the door, nor into the work of the ministry under the influence and by the inspiration of the spirit of wisdom, light and love ; these false prophets, ministers of Antichrist, are likened unto fruitless trees, wells without water, clouds without (heavenly) rain, for whom is reserved the blackness and darkness ; these are likened unto whited walls, painted sepulchres, fair without, within full of rottenness and dead men's bones, in whom is neither spiritual life or moisture ; these are a stink in the nostrils of the Lord of Lords ; again, these are as dark stars, that interrupt the light and pure influence of the beams of the heavenly sun from shining upon the creation ;

creation; these wandering stars, that move not in the orb of divine wisdom, by their malignant influence infect and poison the air, which operateth powerfully upon all those that breathe therein; again, they are truly called blind leaders of the blind; these, instead of being way marks to Mount Sion, are as stumbling blocks, that neither enter the kingdom of God themselves or suffer those that would; by their fruits they are to be known; this is the criterion by which they are to be judged and made manifest; it is divine light that manifests the secret workings of the power of darkness, under every form and specious appearance. The day spring from on high hath visited us, divine light hath broke forth out of obscurity. Arise, Sion, and shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is arisen upon thee; be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors and let the King of Glory come in; the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them; I will be their father and they shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord of Hosts. Arise, arise, O ye that are in authority, and put ye on the garments of heavenly light and wisdom, set about this noble work of reformation, lay the axe to the root of an evil and corrupt ministry, and no longer exalt yourselves against the power and government of the Son of God, in his church; all power is given unto him both in heaven and in earth, he is come to take upon himself his great power and to rule and reign, whose right it is; his command is gone forth, blow the trumpet, sound an alarm, proclaim the mighty day of the Lord that is at hand, set up the royal standard of the King of Kings; the command is gone forth to the heavenly heralds to proclaim war in their master's name against spiritual wickedness in high places, against the high places of Baal, against all idolatrous priests and the worshippers of the beast and his image; who receives his mark in his forehead or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture, into the cup of his indignation, and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone, in the presence of the holy Angels and in the presence of the Lamb, and the smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever, and they have no rest day nor night.† [† *Revelation C. 15—9, 10 and 11, V.*]

To conclude. I have, in childlike simplicity, in the innocence and integrity of my heart, laboured to discharge my duty, as it appeared to be required at my hands, in writing, publishing and delivering this message, under the influence of disinterested love, seeking not my own ease or interest, but the honour and exaltation of the power, wisdom and glory of the kingdom of my great Lord and good master, the King of Kings, to whose divine protection and to the guidance of his pure wisdom I leave you. FAREWELL.

J. BOUSELL.

A M E S S A G E

FROM

The LORD to the KING,

AND TO

The MEMBERS of both HOUSES

OF

P A R L I A M E N T.

HEAR, O King, and all ye that are in authority, ye Members of both Houses of Parliament, the word of the Lord : Let the poor and greatly distressed, and inexpressibly afflicted Africans go free, proclaim liberty to the captives : I have heard their groaning (saith the Lord) and am come down to deliver them, and will deliver them from under the hands of their hard-hearted, cruel taskmasters ; it has been my spirit that has been at work in the hearts of many of the inhabitants of this nation* to plead the cause of these helpless, miserable objects of pity.—Hear, ye that are in authority, and arise and put on strength in the name of the Lord, and press forward thro' all the hosts of evil spirits that have arisen to obstruct this good work, not from motives of humanity but from wicked motives of covetousness. Where can these wicked spirits hide themselves in the day of vengeance, in the day of destruction which draweth nigh ? May ye that are in authority experience the regenerating divine power to work in you and to leaven you into his holy heavenly nature, standing in the glorious liberty of the sons of God, governing in equity and justice, mercy sitting upon your right hands as the tender mercies of the Lord are over all his works, as you abide under the influence of his good spirit, your habitation being filled with divine love, this divine principle prevailing in and over all, submitting unto the mighty

* This good work appears to have been begun among the people called Quakers—a noble work indeed—the blessing of the Almighty will attend it.

mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, of whose reign and government there shall be no end. It is in his name, under the influence of his good spirit, I am constrained to visit you in this public manner. Give ear, O King, and ye Princes, ye Ministers of State, ye Members of both Houses of Parliament, receive the message my great Lord and good master has given me to deliver unto you; loose the bonds of wickedness, undo the heavy burthens, let the oppressed go free, proclaim liberty to the African captives, keep them no longer in slavery, let them be as hired servants, let them be treated in mercy, in tenderness, and they will multiply and increase, you need not fear; the government will not suffer by exercising loving kindness, judgement and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

Remember the command of the Lord unto Pharaoh, King of Egypt, by his servants Moses and Aaron. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, let my people go, that they may hold a feast for me in the wilderness. Let not your language be like unto this hard-hearted king's: Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice to let Israel go free? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go. Remember the mighty works of the Almighty, and the judgements that he brought upon both the king and his subjects, and by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm brought the captives from under the power, from under the hands of their cruel, hard-hearted taskmasters. The arm of the Lord is not shortened that he cannot save, neither is his ear grown heavy that he cannot hear; he hears the cries of the poor captives, their prayers have penetrated thro' the thick clouds into the ears of the Lord God of Sabbath, and he is come down to deliver them. I say again it has been the moving of the spirit of God upon the face of the great deep, upon the waters, that has commanded light, in which light the wickedness of this traffic is discovered and condemned. It is divine light that discovers the works of darkness and maketh manifest the doing of the inhabitants of the infernal regions. For what else can these horrible monsters in human shape be that afflict, that cruelly torment thousands of innocent mortals that fall into their hands; which, however allowed by the laws of man, yet is entirely repugnant to the laws of God, to the statutes and judgements of the Almighty.

Do thou, O King, arise and exercise mercy towards these captives that are in distress, as the Lord arose for thy help in the time of need, as the Lord was good and gracious unto thee and delivered thee when thou didst cry unto him; be thou merciful and gracious unto these helpless, bowed-down souls; it will tend to thy honor and peace and consolation in the day of thy distress, when

when thou call upon him in the time of deep affliction which thou knowest not how soon may come upon thee. May the Almighty guide thee, O King, by his counsel, while here, and when time to thee shall be no more, mayest thou be admitted into the kingdom of glory.

And ye Ministers, ye servants of the King, in whom the bowels of compassion have rolled towards these strangers in the land of captivity and slavery, be ye strengthened with might in the inward man, let your hands be strong in this good work, the Lord is on your side, no weapon while you are moving under the influence of his power shall prevail against you, the blessing of the everlasting hills shall attend you, your bow shall be made strong, your hand and your arm shall be strengthened by the Hands of the mighty God of Jacob, and your branches shall spread over the walls of opposition.—And ye Members of both Houses of Parliament, in whose hearts the Lord has begotten a tenderness, and who have been raised up to plead the cause of the afflicted captives, let your hands be strong in the Lord, go ye forward under the influence of the mighty power of God, and he will give you victory over this wicked merciless spirit which has arisen from the centre of the bottomless pit of the kingdom of darkness, the habitation of evil rebellious spirits, who have revolted from God and become utter enemies to his kingdom of mercy, light and love. May the Lord give you a heart to execute his will, in relieving and letting the oppressed go free and proclaiming liberty to the captive, for the day of redemption and of deliverance draweth nigh. Receive this message, which my great Lord and good master has given me in commission to deliver unto you; he is willing to enter into covenant with you that are in authority, and to treat you as his friends; he is the King of Kings, he bringeth down and he raiseth up kings, he buildeth and pulleth down, he planteth and plucketh up at his pleasure; the kingdoms of this world are at his disposal, he giveth and taketh away as it seemeth good in his sight; let the inhabitants of this nation, both high and low, rich and poor, tremble before him, before whom all nations are but as the drop of a bucket; he formed the mountains, he created the winds, he declareth unto man what his thoughts are, he treadeth upon the high places of the earth, the Lord God of the Armies of Israel is his name.

Time would fail me to set forth the miraculous works of the Almighty; he worketh wonders both in the heavens above and in the earth beneath, there are no bounds unto his power, unto his holy protection.

I desire to leave both King and Princes and the Members of both Houses of Parliament, and bid them farewell.

JOHN BOUSELL.

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